



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

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A THANKSGIVING VACATION BREAK FOR CALPEEK

We'll be off next week for Thanksgiving, but resume work on Nov. 29th for Calpeek's final issue of the year, which will be dated Dec. 6th. Issue #44 will include the *Who's Hot & Who's Not* column. Get your nominations in via fax or email. Here's wishing all Calpeek readers a happy Thanksgiving Holiday...



the AVs broke when first reported election night, Pirozzi only had a 900 vote lead on Baca, meaning Baca will probably get a hunk of those uncounted ballots...

...A big win for Demo lead consultant Richie Ross and his team (Susan Burnside on field; LGD Insight on polling; and Andrew Acosta handling daily mgt. FYI: the DCCC's *independent expenditure* mail was done by Bill Carrick and Garin Hart Yang did IE polling for the DCCC). FYI: G-H-Y polling 2 weeks before the special showed Baca with a 49% vs. 34% lead over Pirozzi. Sources say LGD's polling was similar...

...As we noted, what made the runoff interesting was that the RNC and NRCC were pumping big IE bucks into Pirozzi's campaign --- and a huge hunk came in a *late absentee voter program*. Volunteers were getting *bounties* for bringing in the AV applications. In terms of total requests for AV ballots, the GOP had 2-to-1 lead over Demos, but it didn't pay off. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2000: WILL CALIFORNIA'S NOVEMBER BALLOT BE LOADED CONTROVERSIAL INITIATIVES?

Editor's note: As of Nov. 8th there were 8 initiatives in circulation, with another 19 pending at the AG's office for title & summary. Most won't make it the November 2000 ballot. Here's our brief *sneak preview*...

...Calpeek sources are fairly confident that the *Contracting Out* initiative sponsored by CELSOC will qualify for the Nov. 7th ballot. It is being counted now. This initiative allows State and local governments to contract with private firms for engineering and architectural services...

...There are 7 other initiatives which our sources feel have a fair-to-good shot at making the Nov. 7th ballot. All are controversial. Here's the list. The first item (in bold) is the only initiative now on the street. The other

DEMO JOE BACA WINS 42ND CD RUNOFF SPECIAL.

Editor's note: It's U.S. Rep. Joe Baca(D), as the San Berdu Co. Demo State senator defeated GOP attorney Elia Pirozzi in the 42nd CD runoff Nov. 16th. Baca took over from the late Congressman George Brown Jr., who died July 15th. Baca resigned his 32nd SD seat at 11 p.m. election night and flew to DC to be sworn in Nov. 17th. Gov. Gray Davis, working closely with SOS Bill Jones, has called a special to replace Baca for Jan. 11th, with a runoff Mar. 7th. Who says Davis is a slow poke? Here's our update...

...Although the DNC and DCCC might **spin** this win by Baca as a *big deal* and as a preview of what will happen in 2000, don't fall into that trap. Baca was the favorite from day one, but the GOP's heavy spending gave the Demos some sleepless nights and made the special runoff interesting. With all 202 precincts reporting, Baca got 22,766 or 51.7% vs. 19,194 or 43.6% for Pirozzi. Libertarian Party candidate John Ballard got 909 votes and Reform Party candidate Rick Simon got 1,133...

...There are about 3,100 provisions and AV ballots yet to be counted, but Baca's margin now stands at 3,572. So even if all the AVs went to Pirozzi, it wouldn't be enough to swing the election. And if you look at how

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items await the AG's title & summary...

◆ **Parental Notification Prior to Termination of Minor's Pregnancy.** This constitutional amendment and statute is different than the old parental consent law, but pro-choice groups will still oppose this proposal by Julia Leyva, a Demo from Humboldt Co. It is on the street now with Arno Political Consultants handling the petitions, so there are resources. Deadline for turning in signatures is Jan. 6th...

◆ **Substance Abuse & Crime Prevention Act of 2000** is pending at the AG's office for title & summary. There are 2 plans, but only one will be circulated by Progressive Campaigns. The author is S.F. criminal attorney Cliff Gardner. He has hired consultant Bill Zimmerman to run the campaign once it qualifies – which seems likely. This proposal will put non-violent drug users in rehab instead of prison or jail. If it passes it could drastically reduce CA's prison population and the need for new construction. Zimmerman says he polled on the issue and it has **70% support**...

◆ **Save Our State.** This constitutional amendment is pending at the AG's office. It is the Son of Prop. 187 and deals with illegal immigration. **Calpeek** wrote a story about this initiative several weeks ago. Odds of it qualifying are fair-to-good. This is *the* wedge initiative to watch – and it could be an election day GOP killer...

◆ **The National Average School Funding Guarantee and Parental Right to Choose Quality Education Amendment.** This proposal is by Silicon Valley venture capitalist Tim Draper. Earlier he had submitted something similar, but didn't like the title & summary assigned by the AG's office. It came out vouchers. So he did a rewrite. Draper has the resources to qualify. The key question: will the AG's title & summary again tag Draper's initiative as a voucher plan???

◆ **The Tobacco Treatment & Health Care Act.** The sponsors are Jim Gonzalez and Robert Harris, lobbyists for several health care clients. The key supporters are the CA Medical Assn., CA Nurses Assn., CA Healthcare Assn., AARP and the CA Heart, Lung & Cancer Assns. This initiative requires the State to spend all of its \$12.5 billion share of the tobacco settlement funds on healthcare. Sources say the proposal will require the settlement funds to be run through the general fund,

thus avoiding any Prop. 98 conflicts with the CTA. And by running the settlement funds through the general fund, it will likely cause more triggers to be pulled, thus reducing the VLF tax even more. The one sticky point: if the initiative attempts to dictate to local government that it must spend its \$12.5 billion share on healthcare, the locals will go to war, with no POWs...

◆ **Reinvesting In Calif. Schools Act – CTA** is the sponsor of this initiative which would require the State to bring per-student spending in Calif. up to the national average. CA is about \$1,000 per student short at this time. The cost of this measure could be staggering. It probably will qualify...

◆ **The Identity Theft Victim's Protection Act** – This is not some pie in the sky initiative. There was a recent story about identity theft in the L.A. Times. Campaign consultant Darry Sragow will run this campaign, but the proponent/key sponsor is unknown for now, but Sragow says the sponsor has resources to qualify this measure. Stay tuned...

CALIF. GOP PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS: IS IT KIDS AT PLAY, A BYZANTINE PLOT OR NONE OF THE ABOVE?
Editor's note: Conservative businessman Steve Forbes must be wondering how he managed to lose the endorsement of the **CA Republican Assembly (CRA)** to fellow hardliner Gary Bauer last weekend (Nov. 6-7). Here is **Calpeek's** update and analysis...

...Just when you thought all the internal bickering and backstabbing was at an end within the CA Republican Party, up pops the CRA Presidential Endorsing convention in Ontario where hardline conservatives gathered to endorse either Forbes or Bauer. Fellow hardliner Alan Keyes was never in the running and other GOP White House wannabes didn't show...

...Back to Forbes. Here's a guy with tons of money and an organization that is at least equal to that of the GOP frontrunner – George W. Bush. His only problem is that many hardliners in Calif. and nationwide still don't completely trust him. What happened to Forbes is that he got caught in a *Jihad* between Calif.'s National Committeewoman Barbara Alby and Calif.'s Republican Party Chair John McGraw. Our sources were sure this Alby vs. McGraw feuding would pop up in late September at the CA GOP convention in Anaheim, but it never did. It was bubbling under the surface...

... Alby is seeking reelection to her Committeewoman job, but is opposed by CRP Secretary Gerry Snyder. At the CRA convention, McGraw not only sent a written letter to delegates backing Snyder, but openly endorsed her at the CRA luncheon. And the way the Snyder forces framed the argument, a vote for Gerry was a vote of confidence in McGraw's leadership...

... According to our sources, the Alby forces only wanted a no endorsement vote in her battle with Snyder. But when Snyder and her allies got the votes for a secret ballot, Alby's forces figured they'd been ambushed. So they all voted for Bauer, the theory being that Bauer has almost no credibility – and therefore all CRA endorsements would be meaningless. Perhaps. And that's why Forbes lost. He was caught in the Alby vs. Snyder squeeze. And yes, Snyder won on the 3rd ballot. Tim Morgan, the CA GOP Nat'l Committeeman, was unopposed. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2000: PROP. 28 TO REPEAL CA'S NEW TOBACCO TAX IS BEHIND IN LATEST FIELD POLL.

Editor's note: The petition drive to qualify Prop. 28 almost didn't make it. Now the big question is whether voters will repeal Prop. 10 from 1998. That's what Prop. 28 is all about. Here's our update, with new data from pollster Mervin Field...

... Voters approved Prop. 10 by a very narrow margin in 1998: less than 80,000 votes. Prop. 10 raised the CA tax on cigarettes by 50 cents per pack, with the money going to early childhood development programs designed by the 58 counties. There have been reports of delays in getting the various programs off the ground and other bureaucratic *snafus*...

... In the current Field Poll, **54%** of those surveyed are opposed to the repeal, while **40%** are in favor...

... The key sponsor of Prop. 28 is Ned Roscoe of *Cigarettes Cheaper*, a retail chain of some 427 stores nationwide (230 in CA). It is the 3rd largest chain in the U.S., behind *Wal-Mart* and *7-11*. Sources confirm that Roscoe put about \$900,000 of his own into the petition effort – which was coordinated by Arno Political Consultants. Roscoe has yet to hire a campaign/media consulting firm to manage his initiative and is NOT looking for any money from big tobacco...

... So far it's been just Roscoe and his campaign attor-

ney, Tom Hiltachk of Bell, McAndrews & Hiltachk, doing all the work – from responding to news media inquiries to writing the ballot arguments...

... Sources say Roscoe probably won't spend a ton of money. In 1998, the Cmt. Against Unfair Taxes (anti-Prop. 10) spent \$30,060,773 – most of it from the big tobacco firms (Philip Morris contributed \$21 million). What are we looking at in terms of a budget? Not known at this time. It's also unknown what pro-Prop. 10 forces will spend to defend their new law, but in 1998, director Rob Reiner and his allies collected and spent nearly \$10 million under the banner of Calif. Children and Families First...

... FYI: Until Roscoe started this repeal initiative, he wasn't even a registered voter. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2000: DEMO CONTROL OF CA SENATE NOT IN DOUBT AS WE LOOK AT 3 PRIMARY RACES.

Editor's note: Although these next series of Legislative updates will be about primary battles, in the overall picture Democrats hold a **25-15** majority in CA's upper house and most sources don't expect the Demos to be ousted from power in 2000. The **odd numbered** seats are up in 2000. Of the odd numbered SDs, Demos & GOPers each now hold **10**. In this first report we've IDed **3** races (1 GOP and 2 Demo) which will interest most readers. Here's our analysis, with more analysis and primary contests in the next issue...

☒ **23rd SD** – This is solid Demo turf, GOPers need not apply. This seat is now held by Demo Tom Hayden who is *termed out*. The primary pits two popular lawmakers against each other: 42nd AD's Wally Knox and the 41st AD's Sheila Kuehl. It just depends whom you talk to and on what day --- as to whether this seat goes to Knox or Kuehl. L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan and L.A. Co. COPE are backing Knox, while Kuehl has Gov. Gray Davis. Knox has a better legislative record, and that area code overlay brouhaha Knox fought with the phone companies certainly increased his visibility. But Kuehl may be the better fundraiser and she knows how to attract attention. It may come down to who does best in the voter rich San Fernando Valley – and with cross-over voters. Prognosis: *toss up* for now...

☒ **19th SD** – GOPER Cathie Wright is *termed out* and Northridge Assemblyman Tom McClintock is a favorite

to win this seat over Ventura Co. Sup. Judy Mikels. McC is originally from Camarillo, so he knows the turf. Our current assessment is based on resources. But if Mikels can get the money or if independent expenditure committees get involved, she'd have a shot. She's an attractive candidate and a good campaigner. GOP Senate leaders Ross Johnson and Jim Brulte + 6 other colleagues are behind McC, while Mikels has lots of locals – including Ventura Co. Sheriff Bob Brooks. Although she has not endorsed, it is expected that Wright will back Mikels. This SD is relatively safe GOP turf, but the demographics are shifting. The big question: CCPOA (prison guards) hates McC. Are they willing to step up and help Mikels???

☒ **21st SD** – State Sen. Adam Schiff (D-Pasadena) is giving up his seat to run for congress against U.S. Rep. James Rogan (R). Two popular Demos, the 44th AD's Jack Scott and the 43rd AD's Scott Wildman will face each other. Scott has the more impressive legislative record, but Wildman is a tireless worker and knows how to attract publicity. Sources say the GOP will be hard pressed to defeat either, but Scott has something Wildman does not: he was a highly respected educator prior to his election and the *Pasadena establishment* really likes this guy. (Establishment = GOP/indy support). Wildman just won the L.A. Co. COPE endorsement, but Scott has raised more money (10/21) \$380,000 coh vs. \$221,000 coh for Wildman. Prognosis: *toss up* for now. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few items, political & otherwise, worth noting...

■ **S.F. Mayor's Update** – In the Dec. 14th runoff battle between incumbent Mayor Willie Brown and S.F. Co. Sup. Tom Ammiano, there's a new poll by the *S.F. Examiner/KTVU-TV* which shows Brown at 43% vs. Ammiano with 33% and 24% undecided...

■ **L.A.'s Wachs Out of the Closet** – Finally, after years and years of wondering when he would disclose his homosexuality, popular L.A. Councilman Joel Wachs finally came out of the closet in a cable tv interview with *Adelphia Cable* tv talk show host Bill Rosendahl. No big deal to city hall types and L.A. political insiders who have known about Wachs for years. Why now? Wachs is running for L.A. mayor in

2001 and it's better to get this disclosure done now than wait...

■ **31st CD Update** – In the Demo primary battle between U.S. Rep. Marty Martinez and State Sen. Hilda Solis of El Monte, L.A. Co. COPE voted 2/3rds to open up their endorsement process – thus denying incumbent Martinez an automatic endorsement. It's a big but not final win for Solis. Both candidates still must appear before COPE in December, but sources think Solis has a better than even shot at getting the labor endorsement. And if she does, Martinez could be *political toast*...

■ **GOP U.S. Senate Update** – 3 of the 4 major GOP U.S. Senate candidates traveled out to Ontario Nov. 6th to the *CA Republican Assembly* endorsement convention, but as expected State Sen. Ray Haynes of Riverside walked away with CRA prize. FYI: now that the 48th CD is open (with U.S. Rep. Ron Packard's announced retirement), there is some speculation that San Diego Co. Sup. Bill Horn, now running for the U.S. Senate, might reconsider his options and run for this seat because it's right in the heart of his supervisorial district.

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